(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it would benefit the employees due to retire in the year 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Revision of wage structure of SAIL Employees

3011. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was reached recently by the National Joint Committee for Steel Industry revising the wage structure of SAIL employees;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum rise of wage of an employee;

(c) the minimum wage assured;

(d) how much the rise will cost to the exchequer;

(e) the period of agreement that will be binding on the parties;

(f) by when this agreement will be effective; and

(g) when was the last agreement signed and when it expired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The minimum and maximum rise in wages to the employees would consist of 20% of basic pay as on 31.12.96 notionally w.e.f. 1.1.97, an amount equal to two increments in the revised scales of pay w.e.f. 1.4.2001 and another amount equal to one increment in the revised scales of pay w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

(c) The minimum assured wage as on 1.1.1997 is Rs. 4,000/- p.m.

(d) The financial implication of the wage revision to SAIL would be Rs. 33 crore (approximately) p.m. w.e.f. 1.1.2001.

(e) and (f) The agreement will be effective from 1.1.97 for ten years; and

(g) The last NJCS agreement was signed on 18.5.1995 effective from 1.1.1992, which expired on 31.12.1996.